

# CALIFORNIA LATINO CAUCUS



## LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS CONDEMNS TRAGIC DEATH OF FARMWORKER

Sacramento - Assemblymember Joe Coto (D-San Jose) Chair of the Latino Caucus and Vice Chair, Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) regret the tragic death of 17 year old Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez.

Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez was working in a grape vineyard outside Stockton during the 1st heat wave of the year. She became ill due to the heat at the hands of a farm labor contractor and grower she worked for, who like many others, did not provide the protections required by law.

The California Latino Caucus condemns the untimely and wrongful death of Ms. Vasques Jimenez who was mother to be at the time.

After becoming ill and after delays Ms. Vasquez Jimenez was taken to a clinic and later perished in a Lodi Hospital. It is appalling that she was treated with such disdain and negligence from a contractor that declared to her co-workers to say that "she became sick because she was jogging to get exercise. Since she is underage, it will create big problems for us."

"The death of Maria Vasquez Jimenez is truly a tragedy and justice must prevail. The perils of farmworkers are too often undisclosed and unnoticed" said Chairman Joe Coto

"Every worker in California deserves to be treated as a human being and deserves due process in the face of an injustice and lack of humanity", said Vice Chair Gil Cedillo

We stand in solidarity with the UFW in the pilgrimage to begin Sunday June 1st in memory of Maria Vasquez Jimenez from Lodi to the Sacramento State Capitol during the next four days.

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